

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2016**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair, Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano, Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Britney Gudeahn, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin, Kathleen Stauffer, and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Regional Director

**Guest Present:** Denise Tift

**Scribe:** Jolie Crescimano-Goss, Executive Secretary, DDS South

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting were reviewed. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting.*

**Chairperson's Report**

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update:**

- A few new parents of children aging out attended the last meeting. Josh Scalora of DDS attended the last meeting to share information on housing resources. The presentation by Pam Day, President of Chelsea Groton Bank, scheduled for February 10 will be rescheduled due to a conflict with Family Day at the capitol.

- **Field Activity Report:**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup>. Annual Family Day will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the State Capitol. All are encouraged to attend and bring their child and someone new to the event.
- Sen. Art Linares, Sen. Paul Formica and Rep. Devin will host open office hours at the Saybrook Point Pavilion on Monday, January 25, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to speak one on one with legislators about the needs of people with ID in the state. A number of legislators are hosting pre-session, open office hours in their districts.
- On Saturday, January 23, 2016, a free training entitled, “Using Technology to Create a Good Life” will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Camp Harkness in Waterford. DDS and the CT Developmental Disability Council are sponsoring the training.

## **DDS Administrative Updates**

- Regional Director Dailey updated the Council on, and responded to questions about, the following:
  - Year to date PRAT stats
  - Requests for PRAT Outcome forms
  - Year to date cuts to the DDS budget
  - BSP Waitlist
  - Eligibility for Age/Out funding
  - The Hospital for Special Care's new program for children with Autism
  - Conversions, closures and consolidations of certain DDS homes/programs
  - South Region LEA outreach
  - South Region retirements

**Creative Housing Success Story:** Council Member Gardner shared her family's experience in developing a creative housing solution for her son.

**Membership Update:** Council Member Martin's term of membership will expire on April 30, 2016. On the Council's behalf, the RD's office will submit to the Commissioner a recommendation for the appointment of Ms. Heidi Earle, in anticipation of Member Martin's departure. Ms. Earle has expressed on-going interest in joining the RAC for over a year.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Acton Library, Old Saybrook, CT

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

Jolie Crescimano-Goss, DDS South Executive Secretary